
◆ DMR LOBSTER NEWSLETTER ◆

Volume 10, Issue 1

Winter – February 2008

Maine Fishermen's Forum 2008 – February 28 thru March 2 *(Schedule Subject to Change)*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

9:00 – 12:00	Updated and New Innovative Gear Technology
11:00 – 4:00	Recommendation of the Independent DMR Water Quality Audit and Best Management Practices for Municipalities Dealing with Intertidal Dragging
1:00 – 4:30	More Bang for Your Buck Owning Your Own Products from Boat to Plate

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29

9:00 – 10:15	MLA Annual Meeting
9:00 – 10:15	Rollie Barnaby
9:00 – 10:15	Howard Johnson & Marketing
9:00 – 11:00	Life Raft & Immersion Suit Training
9:00 – 12:00	Sector Allocations in New England
9:00 – 12:00	Welding Workshop
10:30 – 12:00	Trapped on Monhegan? Experiments in Conservation Area
10:30 – 12:00	Innovations in EPIRB Technology
1:00 – 2:30	Marine Stewardship Council Certification
1:00 – 2:30	Groundfish Amendment 16 – Get Ready for More Restrictions on Groundfish
1:00 – 4:30	Oceans of Data to Harvest
1:00 – 4:30	Working Waterfront Access, Tools & Strategies
2:45 – 4:30	State of the Lobster Industry
2:45 – 4:30	GPS/NAV Systems

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

9:00 – 10:15	Penobscot Watershed
9:00 – 10:15	What are the Effects of Climate Change on Maine's Coastal Fishing Communities?
9:00 – 10:15	Limited Entry in the Northern Shrimp Fishery
9:00 – 10:15	MLBRA 2008 Races
9:00 – 10:15	Innovations in EPIRB Technology
9:00 – 11:00	Life Raft & Immersion Suit Training
10:30 – 12:00	Community Access to Groundfish: How to Win the Uphill Battle
10:30 – 12:00	Food Show
10:30 – 12:00	Low Sulphur Fuel for Engines
10:30 – 12:00	Safety Boat Building
10:30 – 12:00	Bringing Together Different Segments of Shellfish Industry
1:00 – 2:30	Scallop Roundtable
1:00 – 2:30	Getting Started in Marine Farming with New Species
1:00 – 2:30	Sinking Rope
1:00 – 2:30	Update on Herring Management
2:45 – 4:30	GAM – Old Historical Info
2:45 – 4:30	Update on Whale Rules
2:45 – 4:30	Zone C Lobster Hatchery
2:45 – 4:30	Atlantic Halibut: Update on State Fishery, New Regulations, Tagging Result

Harvester Reporting Program

DMR passed a new regulation that requires 10% of lobster/crab harvesters (including non-commercial harvesters) to report catch and effort information to DMR. Below are some common questions that DMR has received regarding this requirement and DMR's responses. The DMR sincerely hopes that harvesters provide the most accurate data possible. These data will help fishery managers and industry advisers make informed decisions on the Maine lobster fishery in the future. These decisions can only be as good as the information provided to make them. The regulation can be accessed online at: <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/index.htm> (follow links to DMR regulations and choose Chapter 8 regulations).

Q. When will the new mandatory reporting start?

A. January 1, 2008 for the 10% of lobster harvesters chosen.

Q. Who is eligible to be selected to report?

A. Ten percent of Maine commercial and non-commercial lobster harvesters.

Q. How does the DMR choose which lobster harvester is required to report?

A. Harvesters are randomly selected. Each year, 10% of lobster and crab fishing license holders, except lobster apprentices, from each zone and by license type are selected to file monthly reports for the following calendar year. Latent license holders are included in the random selection. No individual can be selected to report in two consecutive years. The only exception to this rule is that all Monhegan Island Lobster Conservation Area license holders (except apprentices) must report each year.

Q. Why are Maine lobster harvesters required to report this information?

A. Harvester reporting is an ASMFC requirement and DMR feels this is valuable information to collect. Dealer reporting does not include effort information such as traps hauled, soak time, depth, and area fished. Currently our estimates of participation and effort in the lobster fishery are based on the number of licenses and tags sold and limited sampling programs that likely under-represent the industry. Having a representative group of harvesters contribute effort information will inform everyone on the likely impact of any decision on the resource and harvester. Our ability to positively impact the resource and harvesters depends on the best available information.

Q. What kind of information is the DMR requiring?

A. The following information must be included *for each trip* in each monthly report filed by fishermen selected to report who actually fished during the monthly reporting period:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Harvester name as it appears on the harvesting license and license number; ➤ Boat name and hull ID; ➤ Date fished; ➤ Number of people on the boat, captain and crew; ➤ Gear type and number of traps hauled; ➤ Set time in terms of hours that the gear soaked; ➤ Total number of traps in the water; ➤ Depth the gear was set; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Statistical area, lobster zone, and distance from shore (0-3 miles, 3-12 miles, or 12+ miles) where the gear hauled this trip was fished; ➤ Time at sea, including travel; ➤ Pounds of all species landed; ➤ License number of dealer the catch was sold to or, if not sold to a licensed dealer, what happened to the catch including whether the catch was carried; ➤ Port landed; and ➤ Reporting harvester's signature either written or electronic. |
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If there was no harvesting activity, harvesters must submit a "did not harvest" report for the month. The complete regulations describing these requirements may be viewed online as referenced above.

Harvester Reporting Program (Continued)

- Q.** How frequently are lobster harvesters to submit reports?
- A.** Reports must be filed once each month. They are due by the 10th of the following month. For example, January's report is due by Feb. 10th. Compliance is gauged by when the DMR receives the report, and all reports are date stamped when they are received at DMR. Harvesters may fax their reports to (207) 633-9579. They may e-mail them to Rob.Watts@maine.gov. They may send paper reports through the regular mail to: DMR Landings Program, PO Box 8, West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575. Or they may hand-deliver them to the DMR office in West Boothbay Harbor.
- Q.** What happens if I am chosen and do not report?
- A.** Harvesters selected to file mandatory reports who fail to file monthly may be unable to renew their lobster license the following year.
- Q.** How many people will have access to the reported information? Will my name be attached to these data? Does DMR enter the data or an outside contractor?
- A.** Limited personnel within the DMR have full access to the data. Logbook information is permanently linked to the harvester. The harvester's name is not electronically stored with the data. However, a harvester ID is assigned to each fisherman and this ID is stored with the catch and effort data. The harvester ID is not the license number. The DMR is entering all data. All landings are protected as confidential according to 12 M.R.S.A §6173 and Chapter 5 regulations. Data released to the public are summarized such that no information is released in a manner that identifies any individual or business.
- Q.** I am not very active in the fishery; wouldn't it be better to find another harvester that is more active than me?
- A.** No, DMR wants your information if you were chosen. This reporting requirement includes all license types that can fish traps and in order to get a true representation of the effort by the entire lobster fishery, we need to get a true representation of all the different types of activity (including understanding how much of the fishery is part-time or inactive).
- Q.** What if I fish on another person's boat and do not have traps of my own?
- A.** Harvesters selected are to only report on their own traps. If you are sterning for another boat and were selected for this reporting requirement but do not fish your own traps, fill out a negative report for the entire year.
- Q.** You have sent me a letter stating that I should report by submitting Federal Vessel Trip Reports (VTR's), but I do not have to report to National Marine Fisheries Service.
- A.** Contact Rob Watts to correct the federal permit information DMR has; DMR will then send you the state reporting form. If you have certain federal permits (e.g. multispecies, scallop, herring, monkfish, dogfish, etc.), NMFS requires lobster landings to be sent to them even if you are only lobster fishing in state waters. Knowing this, DMR is trying to reduce duplicative reporting by accepting the federal VTR instead of requiring you to double report.
- Q.** I pay my help in lobsters, should I put down the amount of lobsters the boat caught that day or the amount I personally sold? Won't the poundage be different between my numbers and the dealers' numbers?
- A.** Put down the total poundage the boat caught from your traps. Dealers have been instructed to submit all landings by licensed harvester – so dealers buying from sternmen are instructed to report that poundage under the captain's name.

Harvester Reporting Program (Continued)

- Q.** There are only 25 sheets per logbook and I sometimes have more than 25 trips a month; won't I need more than one logbook? What if I have to report for other fisheries as well?
- A.** Each individual sheet has 17 lines and there are 25 sheets per logbook. **Do not fill out one sheet per day.** Use all the lines on one sheet before using another sheet. You could feasibly put 17 trips on each sheet, thus only needing two sheets per month. If you are also required to use this logbook for other DMR licenses/permits (e.g. if you have to report shrimp, halibut, bait gillnet, etc.), put all of your landings for that month on one form – do not fill out separate forms for each fishery. If DMR receives a "Did Not Harvest" report from you for one month, we will assume it is for ALL of the fisheries for which you are required to report.
- Q:** Who is the main contact for this project if harvesters have questions?
- A.** The coordinator for DMR harvester reporting is Robert Watts. He can be reached by phone at (207) 633-9412 or by e-mail at Rob.Watts@maine.gov. Questions concerning this reporting regulation and landings in general may also be directed to Heidi Bray, who manages the DMR Landings Program. She may be reached by phone at (207) 633-9504 or by e-mail at Heidi.Bray@maine.gov. Other questions regarding the lobster fishery should go to Carl Wilson. He can be reached by phone at (207) 633-9538 or by e-mail at Carl.Wilson@maine.gov.

Federal Whale Rule Update

On October 5, 2007, NOAA Fisheries Service issued a final rule implementing new measures to further reduce the risk of entangling large whales in fishing gear along the East Coast.

The final rule has multiple components. In brief:

Effective April 5, 2008

- Northern Gulf of Maine exemption line implemented
- DAMs are eliminated
- All fixed gear fisheries added
- Weak links (no greater than 600 lbs) on all flotation devices and/or weighted devices attached to the buoy line are required

Effective October 5, 2008

- **Sinking and/or neutrally buoyant groundlines required outside of the Maine exemption line (attachment of flotation devices is prohibited)**

For a full list of the management measures, please reference the NOAA website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/hotnews/whalesfr/> and click on Final Rule Small Entity Compliance Guide.

Maine's Low-Profile Groundline Area Proposal

The Department of Marine Resources has submitted an alternative proposal to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan to NOAA Fisheries and Maine's Congressional Delegation. If accepted, this proposal will replace the mandatory sinking groundline requirement with low-profile groundline for use in the state waters outside the exemption line and for area specific federal waters. This groundline is proving to be an operationally viable gear modification that would concurrently reduce the risk of groundline entanglements and prevent the substantial increase of endline risk. The proposal will be considered by the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team at their spring meeting.

For more information, the full proposal is posted on the DMR website at <http://www.maine.gov/dmr>.

*Marine Patrol News***Maine Marine Patrol Officers Close a Major Trap Cutting Complaint. Two Lobstermen Lose Their Licenses for Three Years and Ordered to Pay \$35,000 in Restitution**

Starting in the fall of 2006 the Maine Marine Patrol began a large scale trap cutting investigation in the off shore waters of Southern Maine based on complaints from several lobster fishermen. The complaints involved the cutting of several hundred lobster traps, and jeopardized the livelihoods of three Scarborough fishermen. Marine Patrol Specialist Daryen Granata led up the investigation. Specialist Granata spent several weeks with assistance from other officers working the complaint. Much of the effort was made several miles off shore in the months of November and December, when sea and weather conditions are harsh at best.

The investigation was completed in January of 2007 with hundreds of hours of officer time and patrol vessel under way time placed on the effort. At the culmination of the investigation two lobster fishermen, who fish out of Cape Porpoise, along with their sternmen were charged with trap molesting. The key to the success of the investigation was the tremendous cooperation that was carried out through the entire effort between the fishermen who lost gear and the Maine Marine Patrol.

On January 10, 2008, Duane Ward, II of Lyman and Ryan Erb of Kennebunkport were convicted of trap molesting and criminal mischief in connection with the lost gear. On that same date both parties were sentenced in York County Superior Court with \$1,500.00 worth of fines each for trap molesting and \$250.00 worth of fines each for criminal mischief. In addition, each was remanded to pay \$35,000.00 in restitution to the three victims as well as one year probation and the completion of 96 hours of community service.

For more information you may contact Marine Patrol Lieutenant Jon Cornish at the Marine Patrol Office in Boothbay Harbor at 207-633-9595.

**Notice - Attention All Lobster Fishermen
2008 Trap Tags**

Some fishermen are developing a pattern of not ordering their trap tags until the first week of May making it nearly impossible for the tags to be received and attached to traps by the June 1st deadline. Over 1,000 fishermen ordered trap tags after May 1, 2007.

Most fishermen order tags when they buy their lobster license. If you are among the fishermen who order them separately from your license, be sure to allow adequate time when ordering to ensure that your trap tags are received and attached by the June 1st deadline. In the past DMR has allowed fishermen a grace period.

There will be no exceptions or grace period approved by the Bureau of Marine Patrol for the 2008 season.

Marine Patrol News (Continued)

Marine Patrol welcomes two new officers to their ranks with the successful graduation on May 25, 2007 from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy of **MPO Jason Leavitt and MPO David Ross**.

MPO Leavitt is from Turner, Maine and graduated from Unity College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Conservation Law. Jason worked for five years in Alaska for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game before coming to DMR. He has been assigned to the Eastport Patrol and lives with his wife Michelle in Perry.

MPO Ross is from Dresden and graduated from Unity College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Conservation Law. He has been assigned to the Kennebunk Patrol and lives in Kennebunk.

Congratulations to both of our Marine Patrol Officers!!

- As most of you realize there were two DAM closures in effect off Midcoast and Southern Maine for much of the fall and early winter. Maine Marine Patrol as part of our responsibility under our JEA contract with NOAA have been inspecting and sampling gear in these areas and passing on noncompliant issues to the local NOAA Agents. In Southern Maine compliance has been running at about 80%. Fishermen should remember that during a DAM Closure that gear within the area affected cannot have float rope on the groundline and only 1/3 of the endline can be made up of float line.
- It is the time of year when shrimp are starting to move toward shore and lobster gear is most vulnerable to gear conflict. The Department has facilitated several gear conflict meetings in the past in an attempt to promote communication between lobster fishermen and shrimp draggers. We ask that you make every effort to work together. We have updated tow charts for Southern and Midcoast Maine available in the Boothbay Office (633-9595). These charts show the majority of the tows and have contact info for the shrimp fleet and lobster fishermen. We have asked the dragger fleet to contact us before making a tow where gear is unavoidable when they haven't been able to contact the lobsterman. Patrol will be working with both groups in an effort to avoid loss of gear.
- Marine Patrol would once again like to remind all fishermen of the 30-day wet storage regulation. Fishermen must haul through their gear every thirty days or risk the possibility of a fine and or trap seizure. Patrol is not looking for the occasional trap that gets overlooked but for the intentional violator that leaves gear in the water and makes no attempt to tend it. Please contact your local Marine Patrol Officer or Division office if you know of gear that has been left out unattended. This same regulation also bans float line at the surface.
- Fishermen that are crab fishing this winter and choose to block off all but one escape vent should keep in mind that the blocking mechanism should not block the biodegradable panel, the 3-3/4" x 3-3/4" opening, as well. Officers have encountered situations where a bungee cord was used to block an escape vent but in so doing blocked the biodegradable panel as well.

Marine Patrol Violations Report

June through December 2007

Disclaimer: The Department of Marine Resources makes every effort to provide accurate and complete information, and any inconsistencies are not intentional on the part of the Department and will be corrected.

Last Name	First Name	Viol Description	Disposition Date	Fine Amt	Court Code
ALLEY	CURTIS	LOBSTER AND CRAB FISHING WITHOUT A STUDENT LOBSTER AND CRAB LICENSE.	09-Aug-2007		FTA/DEF
BALZARINI	GINO	POSSESSION OF ONE OVER-SIZED LOBSTER	15-Oct-2007	75.00	G
BATSON	ELLIS	POSSESSION OF 12 SHORT LOBSTERS	26-Oct-2007	525.00	G
BEAL	RANDY	POSSESSION OF 4 SHORT LOBSTERS	20-Nov-2007	150.00	G
BEAUREGARD	MICHAEL	LOBSTER FISHING WITHOUT A LOBSTER LICENSE (CLASS I).	04-Sep-2007	277.50	DEF
BENNETT	PHILIP	SELLING LOBSTERS WITHOUT A CLASS 1 LICENSE	22-Oct-2007	100.00	G
BENNETT	PHILIP	FISHING 30 UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS	22-Oct-2007	1000.00	G
BILLINGS	BRAD	BIODEGRADABLE ESCAPE PANELS	04-Sep-2007	100.00	G
BILLINGS	JOEL	THIRTY (30) UNTAGGED LC TRAPS.	12-Oct-2007	300.00	G
BISHOP	RANDY	LOBSTER TRAP TAG REGISTRANT NOT PRESENT ABOARD VESSEL	13-Nov-2007	50.00	G
BLANCHARD	PAUL	POSSESSION OF THIRTY-NINE SHORT LOBSTERS	07-Jun-2007	1475.00	G
BOUTIN	ALANA	SHORT LOBSTERS	25-Jun-2007	150.00	G
BRAY	DEXTER	NO LEGAL BIODEGRADABLE ESCAPE VENT (TO WIT: 1 TRAP).	01-Jun-2007	100.00	G
BREWER	EARL	FISHING ONE UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAP	15-Aug-2007	50.00	G
BREWER	EARL	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER TRAPS MORE THAN 30 DAYS - 1.5 TRAP TRAWL	11-Jul-2007	250.00	G
BREWER	JOSEPH	MOLESTING LOBSTER GEAR (2 TRAPS).	07-Nov-2007		DISM
BRIDGES	THOMAS	POSSESSION OF ONE V-NOTCH FEMALE LOBSTER	24-Sep-2007	100.00	G
BRIGGS	CHRIS	TRANSPORTING LC TRAPS WITHOUT A CURRENT 2007 LOBSTER TRAP TAG ATTACHED.	12-Oct-2007	150.00	G
BROOKS	KEVEN	FISHING ILLEGAL LOBSTER GEAR, 20 TRAPS IN VIOLATION OF A REGULATION, CHP. 25.20 B(2)	04-Sep-2007	1000.00	G
BROWN	THOMAS	POSSESSION OF TWO SHORT LOBSTERS	26-Oct-2007	100.00	G
BURNHAM	HERBERT	WET STORAGE OF GEAR OVER THIRTY DAYS	13-Jun-2007	150.00	G
CARL	KODI	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH WHALE GEAR REGS (WEAK LINK).	05-Jun-2007	150.00	G
CARL	KODI	WET STORAGE OF GEAR OVER 30 DAYS.	10-Aug-2007		FTA/DEF
CARLSON	STANLEY	POSSESSION OF FORTY-ONE (41) SHORT LOBSTERS.	14-Jun-2007		NG
CHIPMAN	BRIAN	SELLING LOBSTERS WITHOUT A LICENSE.	04-Jun-2007	277.00	G
CHIPMAN	JOHN	POSSESSION OF TWO V-NOTCHED LOBSTERS	26-Oct-2007	150.00	G
CHURCH	CHRISTOPHER	SELLING LOBSTERS WITHOUT A LICENSE.	08-Jun-2007	100.00	G
CLARK	DONALD	LOBSTER FISHING WITHOUT A CLASS II LICENSE	11-Jul-2007	236.00	DEF
CLOUGH	JAY	FISHING LOBSTER TRAP WITHOUT A BIODEGRADABLE ESCAPE PANEL.	05-Jun-2007	100.00	G
COLSON	ADAM	POSSESSION OF THREE V-NOTCHED LOBSTERS	07-Sep-2007	200.00	G
COOMBS	HERMAN	POSSESSION OF ONE OVERSIZE LOBSTER	22-Jun-2007	75.00	G
COY	GILBERT	POSSESSION OF THREE SHORT LOBSTERS	11-Sep-2007	125.00	G
CREAMER	CHRISTOPHER	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR - 30 DAYS WET STORAGE	18-Jun-2007	250.00	G
DAGGETT	ROBERT	POSSESSION OF FIVE FEMALE LOBSTERS WITH V-NOTCHED TAILS	21-Nov-2007	300.00	G
DAGGETT	TEDDY	FISHING LOBSTER GEAR IN A NON-REGISTERED VESSEL	21-Nov-2007	300.00	G
DAVIS	BRENT	ENGAGED IN LOBSTER FISHING W/O A CURRENT LICENSE	01-Oct-2007	277.50	G
DAVIS	DENNIS	SALE OF TWENTY-SEVEN (27) SHORT LOBSTERS.	15-Nov-2007	1300.00	G
DAVIS	PHILIP	POSSESSION OF 17 SHORT LOBSTERS	05-Nov-2007	775.00	G
DENSMORE	BRIAN	POSSESSION OF ONE OVER-SIZED LOBSTER	06-Nov-2007	75.00	G
DILLON	CHARLES	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR BEYOND 30 DAYS.	04-Jun-2007	250.00	G
DINSMORE	MICHAEL	POSSESSION OF 4 SHORT LOBSTERS	05-Nov-2007	150.00	G
DODGE	JEFFEREY	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER TRAPS GREATER THAN 30 DAYS.	11-Jun-2007	250.00	G
DODGE	MARK	SELLING LOBSTERS WITHOUT A LICENSE (CLASS I).	09-Jul-2007	150.00	G
DODGE	MARK	SELLING LOBSTERS WITHOUT A LICENSE (CLASS I).	09-Jul-2007	150.00	G
DOW	JAMES	UNTAGGED LOBSTER GEAR.	04-Sep-2007	150.00	G
DUHAIME	RICHARD	POSSESSION OF THIRTEEN (13) SHORT LOBSTERS.	07-Sep-2007		DISM

Marine Patrol Violations Report (Continued)
June through December 2007

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Last Name	First Name	Viol Description	Disposition Date	Fine Amt	Court Code
DURANT	CRAIG	FISHING UNGAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS - FOUR TRAPS	09-Oct-2007	200.00	G
DURKEE	RANDY	POSSESSION OF ONE OVERSIZED LOBSTER	18-Dec-2007	75.00	G
DYER	JUSTIN	IMPROPERLY VENTED TRAPS - 3	12-Oct-2007	100.00	G
EMERTON	WILLIAM	POSSESSION OF THREE (3) SHORT LOBSTERS.	03-Jul-2007	125.00	G
FISCHER	WILLIAM	MOLESTING LOBSTER GEAR	18-Dec-2007	250.00	G
FLORIAN	DAVID, JR.	POSSESSION OF 9 SHORT LOBSTERS	24-Sep-2007	375.00	G
FOGG	PERLEY	TEN (10) UNTAGGED LC TRAPS.	02-Aug-2007	500.00	G
FRONCZAK	ADAM	POSSESSION OF FOUR (4) V-NOTCHED LOBSTERS.	07-Sep-2007	250.00	G
GAFFNEY	MICHAEL	FAILURE TO DISPLAY BUOY	09-Oct-2007	100.00	G
GARDNER	MATTHEW	POSSESSION OF ONE SHORT LOBSTER	27-Jul-2007	75.00	G
GEORGE	CLIFTON	POSSESSION OF THREE SHORT LOBSTERS	10-Oct-2007	125.00	G
GEYER	NICHOLAS	NO LOBSTER LICENSE	12-Jun-2007	277.50	G
GEYER	ZACHARY	NO LOBSTER LICENSE	13-Jun-2007	277.50	DEF
GEYER	ZACHARY	SIX UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS	11-Jul-2007	300.00	DEF
GILLEY	GREGORY	POSSESSION OF FIVE (5) SHORT LOBSTERS.	04-Sep-2007	300.00	G
GILLIAM	ERIC	FISHING FIVE TRAPS NOT MEETING WHALE SAFE REQUIREMENTS	07-Sep-2007	250.00	G
GLIDDEN	GARY	SELLING LOBSTERS WITHOUT A WHOLESALE SEAFOOD LICENSE	20-Sep-2007	100.00	G
GORDON	HOWARD	POSSESSION OF 3 V-NOTCH MUTILATED FEMALE LOBSTERS	05-Nov-2007	350.00	G
GRANT	DOUGLAS	POSSESSION OF THREE SHORT LOBSTERS	07-Jun-2007	125.00	G
GRANT	MATTHEW	POSSESSION OF FOUR SHORT LOBSTERS	19-Jun-2007	150.00	G
GRANT	MATTHEW	POSSESSION OF ONE MUTILATED LOBSTER	14-Aug-2007	150.00	G
GRANT	MATTHEW	POSSESSION OF TWELVE SHORT LOBSTERS	14-Aug-2007	525.00	G
GRAVES	ROGER	POSSESSION OF ONE MUTILATED MALE LOBSTER	11-Dec-2007	75.00	G
GRAYBILL	WARREN	FISHING TWO UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS	09-Oct-2007	100.00	DEF
GUPTILL	JAMES	POSSESSION OF SIX SHORT LOBSTERS	12-Dec-2007	200.00	G
GUSTAFSON	BENHARD	MOLESTING LOBSTER GEAR	09-Nov-2007	500.00	G
HALL	JOHN	SETTING LOBSTER TRAPS FROM AN UNDECLARED VESSEL.	09-Jul-2007	250.00	G
HAMILTON	JASON	POSSESSION OF 2 EGG-BEARING	13-Aug-2007	250.00	G
HARBOUR	ROBERT	LOBSTER FISHING DURING A CLOSED PERIOD - AFTER 1600 ON SATURDAY	14-Sep-2007	100.00	G
HARDY	MYRON	FISHING FIVE (5) LOBSTER TRAPS WITHOUT CURRENT TRAP TAGS.	11-Jul-2007	150.00	G
HARDY	MYRON	FISHING LOBSTER TRAPS WITHOUT A CURRENT LC LICENSE.	12-Oct-2007		DISM
HARPER	JOEL	LOBSTER FISHING THE MAJORITY OF GEAR IN A LIMITED ENTRY ZONE.	21-Dec-2007	100.00	NOLO
HARPER	JOEL	LOBSTER FISHING 12 UNTAGGED TRAPS.	21-Dec-2007	600.00	G
HARPER	STEVE	25.20 B(1)(6): WET STORAGE OVER 30 DAYS.	03-Jul-2007	190.00	G
HAYCOCK	CHARLES	POSSESSION OF 4 SHORT LOBSTERS	14-Aug-2007	150.00	G
HUTCHINSON	SCOTT	POSSESSION OF ONE (1) EGG-BEARING LOBSTER.	13-Jul-2007	150.00	G
HUTCHINSON	SCOTT	POSSESSION OF NINE (9) SHORT LOBSTERS.	13-Jul-2007	375.00	G
JONES	ERIC	HAULING LOBSTER TRAPS DURING CLOSED PERIOD	05-Oct-2007	100.00	G
JONES	NATHANIEL	HAULING LOBSTER GEAR DURING CLOSED PERIOD	04-Dec-2007	100.00	G
JORDAN	JAMES	POSSESSION OF V-NOTCHED LOBSTER	05-Sep-2007	150.00	G
JORDAN	JAMES	POSSESSION OF 7 SHORT LOBSTERS	05-Sep-2007	250.00	G
JOYCE	MATTHEW	POSSESSION OF 3 MUTILATED LOBSTERS	26-Dec-2007	250.00	G
JOYCE	NORMAN	POSSESSION OF TWO SHORT LOBSTERS	04-Sep-2007	100.00	G
KING	KEVIN	POSSESSION OF EIGHT SHORT LOBSTERS	17-Sep-2007	250.00	G
LAMB	SCOTT	POSSESSION OF TWO V-NOTCHED/MUTILATED LOBSTERS	06-Dec-2007	150.00	G
LAMB	TERRY	POSSESSION OF ONE SHORT LOBSTER	28-Sep-2007	75.00	G
LANE	STANLEY	POSSESSION OF THREE SHORT LOBSTERS	15-Aug-2007	125.00	G
LANG	JAMES	LOBSTER GEAR IN WATER WITHOUT CURRENT/VALID 2007 TRAP TAG - TO WIT: ONE TRAP	14-Aug-2007	50.00	G
LAZARO	CRAIG	POSSESSION OF ONE OVERSIZE LOBSTER	22-Oct-2007	75.00	G
LEACH	NATHAN	POSSESSION OF FOUR SHORT LOBSTERS	21-Nov-2007	150.00	G

Marine Patrol Violations Report (Continued)
June through December 2007

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Last Name	First Name	Viol Description	Disposition Date	Fine Amt	Court Code
LEEMAN	WALTER	FISHING LOBSTER TRAPS WITHOUT A VALID LOBSTER TRAP TAG (SEVEN TRAPS)	09-Oct-2007	100.00	G
LOOK	TROY	FAILING TO DISPLAY BUOY WHILE HAULING	01-Oct-2007	130.00	G
LORD	SCOTT	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER TRAPS OVER THIRTY DAYS (TWO TRAPS)	19-Sep-2007	250.00	G
MACFEE	ADAM	LOBSTER FISHING WITHOUT A LOBSTER AND CRAB CLASS II LICENSE.	13-Aug-2007	500.00	G
MACFEE	ADAM	TRANSPORTING THIRTY (30) UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS.	13-Aug-2007	1500.00	G
MAHONEN	DAVID	FISHING 25 UNTAGGED TRAPS	22-Oct-2007	1250.00	G
MALONEY	ROBERT	FISHING UNTAGGED TRAPS	13-Aug-2007	300.00	G
MCCULLOCK	MICHAEL	POSSESSION OF THREE SHORT LOBSTERS	03-Oct-2007	125.00	G
MCCULLOCK	MICHAEL	POSSESSION OF TWO V-NOTCHED FEMALE LOBSTERS	03-Oct-2007	150.00	G
MCCULLOCK	MICHAEL	POSSESSION OF ONE FEMALE EGG BEARING LOBSTER	03-Oct-2007	150.00	G
MCCULLOCK	MICHAEL	TRAP MOLESTING	18-Jul-2007	206.00	G
MCCULLOCK	MICHAEL	TRAP MOLESTING	03-Oct-2007	250.00	G
MCINTIRE	DANA	POSSESSION OF ONE MUTILATED MALE LOBSTER	14-Aug-2007	75.00	G
MERCHANT	BRUCE	POSSESSION OF THREE V-NOTCHED/MUTILATED LOBSTERS	14-Dec-2007	200.00	G
MERCHANT	BRUCE	POSSESSION OF LOBSTERS WITHOUT A CURRENT LOBSTER AND CRAB CLASS III LICENSE.	14-Dec-2007	277.50	G
MERCHANT	BRUCE	FISHING LC TRAPS WITHOUT A CURRENT 2007 TRAP TAG.	14-Dec-2007	300.00	G
MERCHANT	BRUCE	POSSESSION OF THIRTEEN (13) SHORT LOBSTERS.	14-Dec-2007	575.00	G
MILLER	MARK	POSSESSION OF 5 SHORT LOBSTERS	18-Oct-2007	175.00	G
MOLLOY	MARTIN	OVERSIZE LOBSTERS	13-Aug-2007	75.00	G
MOODY	EVAN	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTERS FOR OVER THIRTY DAYS	08-Aug-2007	100.00	DEF
MOREY	DANIEL	NO ESCAPE VENTS IN LOBSTER TRAPS.	07-Aug-2007	100.00	G
MOREY	MICHAEL	FISHING LOBSTER TRAP WITH NO ESCAPE VENT	26-Sep-2007	130.00	G
MOREY	MICHAEL	LOBSTER/CRAB FISHING INSIDE SWANS ISLAND W/O A LICENSE TO DO SO	15-Sep-2007	250.00	G
MORRELL	STANLEY	POSSESSION OF LOBSTER TRAPS WITH ILLEGAL ESCAPE VENTS (3 TRAPS).	07-Aug-2007	100.00	G
MOULTON	BRYANT	FAILURE TO TEND LOBSTER GEAR WITHIN THIRTY DAYS - SIX TRAPS	26-Oct-2007	250.00	G
MURPHY	TRAVIS	TO WIT: TEN (10) UNTAGGED LC TRAPS.	06-Aug-2007	500.00	G
NEVELLS	CLIFFORD	FISHING LOBSTER TRAPS WITH NO LEGAL BIODEGRADABLE ESCAPE VENT (TO WIT: 1 TRAP).	18-Jul-2007	100.00	G
NOYES	DAVID	FISHING FIVE LOBSTER TRAPS FROM AN UNDECLARED VESSEL	09-Oct-2007	250.00	G
NOYES	RICHARD	FISHING FIVE LOBSTER TRAPS FROM AN UNDECLARED VESSEL	09-Oct-2007	250.00	G
PARRITT	CHAD	POSSESSION OF 2 SHORT LOBSTERS	10-Oct-2007	100.00	G
PELLETIER	EVAN	ESCAPE VENT VIOLATION, 1 LOBSTER TRAP WITHOUT A VENT	15-Nov-2007	100.00	G
PELLETIER	JOHN	NO BIODEGRADEABLE ESCAPE PANELS IN A LOBSTER TRAP	15-Nov-2007	100.00	G
PERRY	JAMES	POSSESSION OF SIX (6) SHORT LOBSTERS.	07-Aug-2007	280.00	G
PETERS	PHILLIP	FISHING ONE UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAP	15-Aug-2007	50.00	DEF
PETERSON	ERIC	FAILURE TO FISH LOBSTER GEAR WITHIN THIRTY DAYS - THREE TRAPS	27-Jul-2007	250.00	G
PHILBROOK	JAMES	POSSESSION OF ONE MUTILATED LOBSTER (NOT MEASURABLE)	17-Dec-2007	75.00	G
PHILBROOK	JUSTIN	LOBSTER FISHING DURING CLOSED PERIODS	17-Dec-2007	100.00	G
PHILBROOK	MICAH	12 UNTAGGED TRAPS	13-Aug-2007	600.00	G
PINKHAM	CLARENCE	POSSESSION OF FIVE V-NOTCHED FEMALE LOBSTERS (THREE V-NOTCHED, TWO MUTILATED)	14-Aug-2007	300.00	G
POLAND	JAMES	THIRTEEN UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS	23-Aug-2007	650.00	G
POST	MARK	POSSESSION OF ONE MUTILATED LOBSTER, OVER SIZE	17-Dec-2007	75.00	G
POTTER	TERRY	POSSESSION OF THREE (3) SHORT LOBSTERS.	03-Aug-2007	125.00	G
PRESCOTT	JASON	POSSESSION OF NINE (9) SHORT LOBSTERS.	24-Oct-2007	225.00	G
PRESTON	CALVIN	POSSESSION OF LOBSTER TRAPS WITH ESCAPE VENTS WIRED OFF (3 TRAPS).	07-Aug-2007	100.00	G
PRESTON	CALVIN	COMMERCIAL LOBSTER FISHING WITHOUT CLASS I LICENSE	21-Sep-2007	300.00	G
PRESTON	DONNA	POSSESSION OF LOBSTER TRAPS WITH ESCAPE VENTS WIRED OFF (3 TRAPS).	07-Aug-2007	100.00	G
PUTNAM	JEFF	LOBSTERING WITHOUT VALID 2007 CLASS II LOBSTER LICENSE	29-Jun-2007	500.00	G
RACKLIFF	LOGAN	POSSESSION OF SEVEN (7) SHORT LOBSTERS.	09-Jul-2007	275.00	G
RASPANTE	PAUL	POSSESSION OF ONE OVER-SIZE LOBSTER	03-Dec-2007	100.00	G
REED	DANIEL	FISHING UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS (SIX)	17-Sep-2007	300.00	G

Marine Patrol Violations Report (Continued)
June through December 2007

Disclaimer: The Department of Marine Resources makes every effort to provide accurate and complete information, and any inconsistencies are not intentional on the part of the Department and will be corrected.

Last Name	First Name	Viol Description	Disposition Date	Fine Amt	Court Code
RICHARDS	VIRGIL	POSSESSION OF THIRTEEN SHORT LOBSTERS	19-Nov-2007	575.00	G
RIDDLE	BARRY	POSSESSION OF FOUR SHORT LOBSTERS	28-Sep-2007	190.00	G
ROBBINS	JAMES	POSSESSION OF 4 V-NOTCHED FEMALE LOBSTERS	07-Sep-2007	450.00	G
ROBERGE	JOE	POSSESSION OF ONE SHORT LOBSTER	19-Sep-2007	150.00	G
ROBINSON	CRAIG	POSSESSION OF TWO MUTILATED/V-NOTCHED LOBSTERS	18-Sep-2007	150.00	G
ROGERS	JAMES	POSSESSION OF FIVE SHORT LOBSTERS	26-Oct-2007	175.00	G
ROSS	WAYNE	NO LEGAL BIODEGRADABLE ESCAPE VENTS (TO WIT: 1 TRAP).	07-Aug-2007	100.00	G
RYAN	CHRISTOPHER	POSSESSION OF ONE SHORT LOBSTER	19-Sep-2007	150.00	G
SANTAGUIDA	THOMAS	POSSESSION OF FOUR SHORT LOBSTERS	28-Nov-2007	150.00	G
SAWTELLE	TRACEY	POSSESSION OF 8 SHORT LOBSTER	28-Nov-2007	250.00	G
SHEPARD	MATTHEW	FISHING LOBSTER TRAP WITHOUT A BIODEGRADABLE EXCAPE PANEL	08-Aug-2007	100.00	G
SHEPARD	MATTHEW	POSSESSION OF SIX (6) SHORT LOBSTERS.	05-Jun-2007	225.00	G
SIMMONS	ADAM	POSSESSION OF NINE MUTILATED FEMALE LOBSTERS	17-Dec-2007	375.00	G
SIMMONS	TODD	SEVENTY (70) UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS ABOARD VESSEL.	29-Nov-2007	1750.00	G
SLINGSBY	PHILIP	POSSESSION OF LOBSTERS IN MAINE WITHOUT A WHOLESALE SEAFOOD LICENSE	20-Sep-2007	610.00	G
SMITH	WILLIAM	FISHING LOBSTER TRAPS WITH NO LEGAL ESCAPE VENT.	30-Jul-2007	100.00	G
SNOWMAN	LELAND	FISHING ONE UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAP	15-Aug-2007	50.00	DEF
SPRAGUE	NICK	POSSESSION OF SIXTEEN (16) SHORT LOBSTERS.	11-Jun-2007	375.00	NOLO
STANLEY	BABE	IMPROPER TRAP VENTS.	24-Aug-2007	250.00	G
STANLEY	TRAVISSE	FISHING LC TRAPS WITHOUT A CURRENT 2007 TRAP TAG (6 TRAPS).	09-Nov-2007	150.00	G
STRATTON	LESLIE	POSSESSION OF ONE OVERSIZE LOBSTER	29-Oct-2007	75.00	G
STUART	JOHN	POSSESSION OF TWO MUTILATED FEMALE LOBSTERS	28-Sep-2007	100.00	G
THOMPSON	JUSTIN	SEVEN (7) UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS.	11-Oct-2007	350.00	G
THOMPSON	MICHAEL	LOBSTER FISHING WITHOUT A CLASS I LICENSE.	11-Jun-2007	100.00	G
THOMPSON	PAUL	POSSESSION OF TEN (10) UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS.	07-Aug-2007	500.00	G
THOMPSON	REGINALD	POSSESSION OF TWELVE (12) V-NOTCH LOBSTERS.	06-Jul-2007	600.00	G
THORBJORNSON	EDWARD	POSSESSION OF THIRTEEN OVERSIZE LOBSTERS	13-Sep-2007	460.00	NOLO
THORBJORNSON	EDWARD	TAKING LOBSTERS BY UNCONVENTIONAL METHOD (91 LOBSTERS)	13-Sep-2007	2000.00	NOLO
TOOTHAKER	QUINTEN	POSSESSION OF 22 SHORT LOBSTERS	08-Aug-2007	1025.00	G
TORREY	LARRY	POSSESSION OF 4 V-NOTCHED/MUTILATED FEMALE LOBSTERS	12-Dec-2007	250.00	G
TRACY	STEVEN	POSSESSION OF THREE SHORT LOBSTERS	26-Oct-2007	125.00	G
TROTTER	ANTHONY	POSSESSION OF ONE EGG-BEARING LOBSTER	19-Dec-2007	150.00	G
UNDERWOOD	SCOTT	FISHING UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAP - ONE TRAP	15-Aug-2007	50.00	G
UNDERWOOD	SCOTT	FIVE SHORT LOBSTERS	15-Aug-2007	175.00	G
VARIAN	NEWBOLD	POSSESSION OF ONE MUTILATED LOBSTER	16-Oct-2007	100.00	G
VARISCO	STUART	FISHING LOBSTER TRAPS (15) WITHOUT CURRENT TRAP TAGS (5 TRAPS).	07-Aug-2007	250.00	G
VIOLA	SAVERIO	CONVICED OF 10 SHORT LOBSTERS	13-Sep-2007	900.00	G
VULTEE	ERIK	FISHING SIX (6) UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS.	13-Aug-2007	300.00	G
WALLACE	BRUCE	POSSESSION OF SEVEN SHORT LOBSTERS	11-Dec-2007	475.00	G
WALSH	FRANCIS	POSSESSION OF SEVEN (7) SHORT LOBSTERS.	13-Aug-2007	275.00	G
WARNER	MARK	POSSESSION OF TWO SHORT LOBSTERS	28-Sep-2007	100.00	G
WEED	BENJAMIN	FISHING UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS (TO WIT: 5 TRAPS).	25-Jun-2007	250.00	G
WHITENER	ZACHARY	POSSESSION OF FIVE SHORT LOBSTERS	28-Sep-2007	175.00	G
WILLIAMS	HUGH	POSSESSION ON ONE V-NOTCHED FEMALE LOBSTER	29-Oct-2007	100.00	G
WILLIAMS	HUGH	POSSESSION OF SIX SHORT LOBSTER	29-Oct-2007	225.00	G
WOOD	CRAIG	HAULING THREE (3) TRAPS NOT REGISTERED TO VESSEL.	27-Jul-2007	190.00	G
WOOD	STEPHEN	POSSESSION OF SEVEN UNDERSIZE LOBSTERS	15-Aug-2007	275.00	G
WOOSTER	JOHN	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER TRAPS GREATER THAN 30 DAYS.	09-Jul-2007	100.00	G

Lobster Science Program

The DMR Lobster Team conducts five principle surveys to monitor juvenile and adult lobster population. These programs directly monitor the fishery (port and sea sampling) and the natural population (settlement, ventless trap and trawl surveys). The information collected by these programs contributes directly to stock assessments and provide guidance for industry and managers to make informed decisions. After nearly 15 years of sustained growth in the population and the associated landings, the last several years have been characterized by erratic and/or delayed summer molts and a decrease in landings. Based on our port sampling surveys, 2007 was the lowest recorded landings since 1997, a 40% decline since 2003. The average catch rates of legal lobsters are on the decline, as the numbers of traps in the fishery continue to rise. The proportion of egg bearing females that have received a V-notch has not changed, with western zones higher than eastern zones. Estimates of the lobster resource, independent of the fishery, suggest that newly settled lobster were again above the average. The next several years will be critical to establish the link between settlement and future lobster landings. Sublegal lobsters caught in research ventless traps suggest that juvenile populations along the coast remain strong relative to other states.

There is concern from DMR biologists, that the fishery's expectations for landings exceed the current population levels. Times are changing, and there is no greater need than to continue to monitor the lobster population and fishery. Please do not hesitate to contact the leaders of each program to learn more and participate.

<i>Monitoring Program</i>	<i>DMR Staff</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Email</i>
	Carl Wilson	633-9538	Carl.Wilson@maine.gov
<i>Port Sampling</i>	Mark Gosselin	633-9562	Mark.Gosselin@maine.gov
<i>Sea Sampling</i>	Kathleen Reardon	633-9404	Kathleen.Reardon@maine.gov
<i>Settlement Survey</i>	Robert Russell	633-9524	Robert.Russell@maine.gov
<i>Ventless Trap</i>	Melissa Smith	633-9527	Melissa.Smith@maine.gov

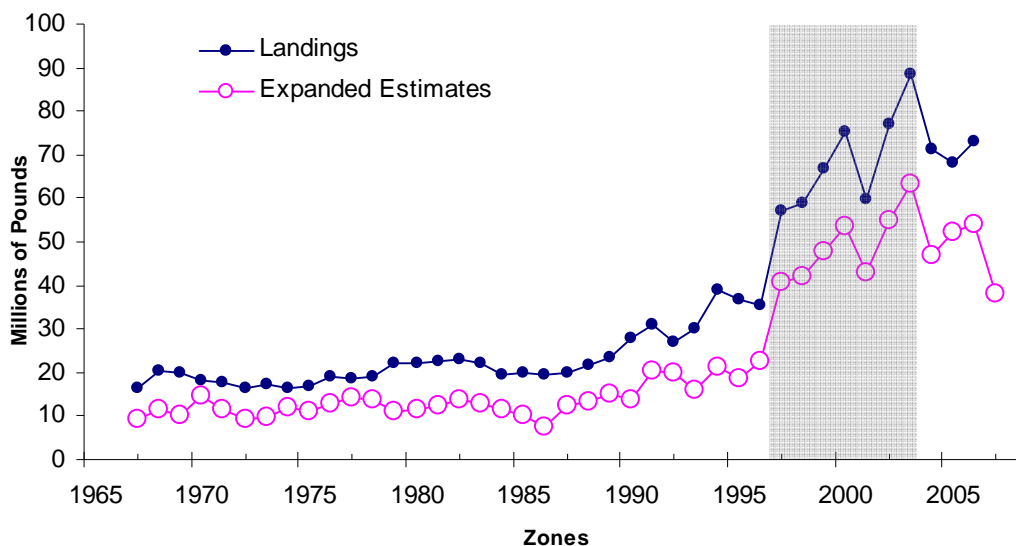


Figure 1. Maine lobster landings and expanded estimates based on dockside interviews. Landings between 1997 and 2003 were estimated using the port sampling estimates as an index to correct for under reporting in the fishery. Mandatory dealer reporting has been in effect since 2004.

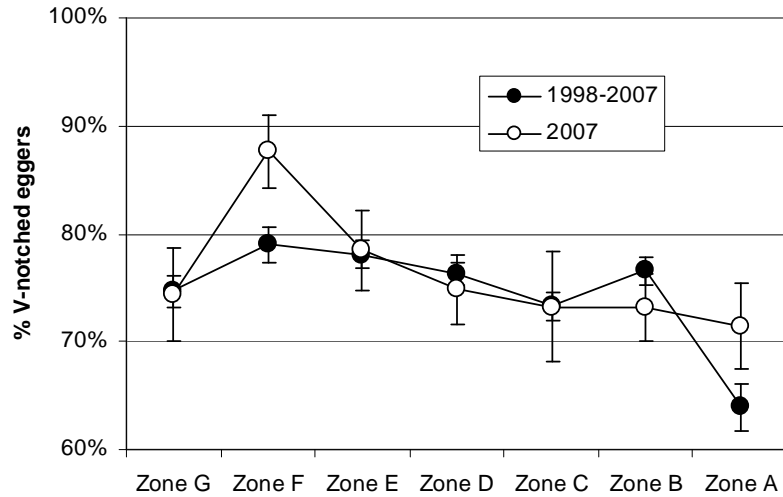
Lobster Science Program (Continued)

Figure 2. The percent v-notched legal size female lobsters with eggs in each zone in 2007 and the average rates from 1998-2007 from sea sampling trips with more than 3 eggers measured.

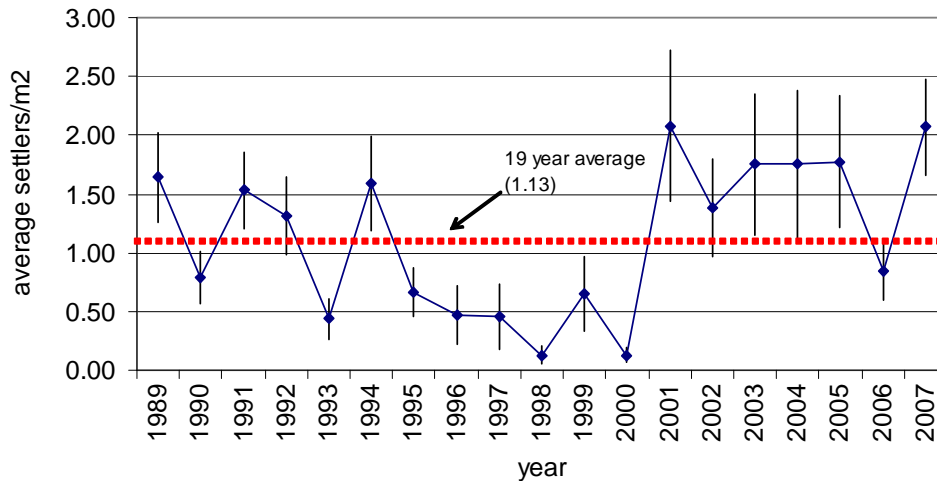


Figure 3. The 19 year time series of newly settled lobster at select sites in the Boothbay Harbor region. Lobsters are collected by diver operated airlift samples at the conclusion of the settlement season (October). Newly settled lobsters are based on carapace length of ≤ 10.5 mm. Data is courtesy of and in partnership with Richard Wahle, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Science, West Boothbay Harbor, Maine.

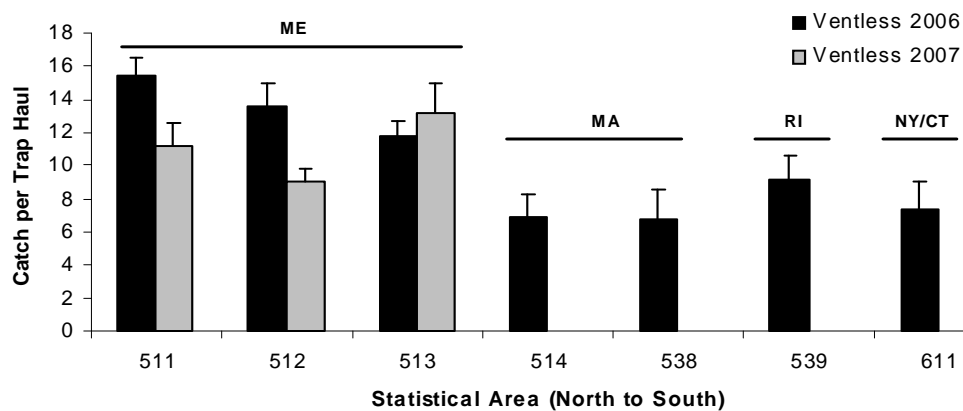


Figure 4. The average number of lobsters caught per trap haul in ventless traps in statistical areas from Maine through New York. Traps are randomly placed in depths up to 30 fathoms. Data for 2007, in areas/states outside of Maine, are unavailable at printing time.

Lobster Zone Council News

- Zone A: The last Zone A meeting was held at the Washington Academy Library in East Machias on September 12, 2007. The Council discussed the Federal Environmental Impact Statement for Large Whale Take Reduction Plan. Other agenda items included: Current DMR Legislation and Seed Fund. The next Zone A meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2008.
- Zone B: Zone B met at the MDI High School on September 13, 2007. Zone B Council members discussed the Federal Environmental Impact Statement for Large Whale Take Reduction Plan. Other agenda items included: Current DMR Legislation and harvester reporting. The next Zone B meeting has not been scheduled.
- Zone C: The last Zone C Council meeting was January 28, 2008 at the Jewett Community Center in Bucksport. The Council discussed the results of their Limited Entry Questionnaire and voted not to close Zone C. Other agenda items included: Harvester reporting, Maine's Low-Profile Groundline Area Proposal and Lobster Seed Fund. The next Zone C meeting has not been scheduled.
- Zone D: The Lobster Zone D Council met on January 17, 2008 at the Rockland Ferry Terminal. Agenda items included: Maine's Low-Profile Groundline Area Proposal, Exit Ratio using tags. Zone D will be meeting again in March. Date to be determined.
- Zone E: The Zone E Council met on September 4, 2007 at the Lincoln County Communications Center in Wiscasset. Agenda items included: Current DMR Legislation, the Federal Environmental Impact Statement for Large Whale Take Reduction Plan. The next Zone E meeting has not been scheduled.
- Zone F: The Lobster Zone F Council met on October 25, 2007 at the Yarmouth Town Hall. Agenda items included: The Federal Environmental Impact Statement for Large Whale Take Reduction Plan, Current DMR Legislation and Whale Science Trap Tag Increase. The next Zone F meeting has not been scheduled.
- Zone G: The Lobster Zone G Council met on January 30, 2008 at York Village Fire House in York. Agenda items included: Discussion on Limited Entry Survey using new calculations, Maine's Low-Profile Groundline Area Proposal. The next Zone G meeting has not been scheduled.

**Lobster Zone elections will be starting in April.
Watch your mailboxes for nomination papers.**

For more information concerning the meeting dates and/or other issues, please contact your local zone council representative, Donna Hall at the DMR at 624-6567, or the DMR web page at www.maine.gov/dmr.

2008 New Zone Entrants

As required by Maine's limited entry law (12 M.R.S.A. §6448), the Commissioner of Marine Resources has determined the number of new zone entrants authorized for each of the limited entry lobster zones. The number of new zone entrants authorized is based on a comparison of the number of licenses in that zone in 2006 and the number of people who did not renew their license in that zone in 2007. Exceptions to the limited entry process, such as medical and military waivers, are discounted from the totals for the purposes of calculating the number of new zone entrants as required by the limited entry law.

- Zone A: 10 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of (1:3)
 Zone B: 4 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of (1:3)
 Zone D: 9 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of (1:5)
 Zone E: 5 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of (1:5)
 Zone F: 6 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of (1:5)
 Zone G: 4 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of (1:5)

**Questions about the lobster licensing process should be addressed to:
 Donna Dyer
 License Eligibility Specialist
 Department of Marine Resources
 (207) 624-6549**



Lobster Advisory Council Update



Update from the last Lobster Advisory Council (LAC) meeting – November 28, 2007

- Pat Pinto of Saltwater Marketing gave a presentation to the Lobster Advisory Council about a product called Clawdia's Secret, a newly developed lobster bait booster or extender. Saltwater Marketing along with Blue Seal Feeds has worked in conjunction with the Lobster Institute and fishermen from Maine and Canada to test a series of experimental lobster bait products. Their goals in testing were to find something that would attract lobsters, a product that was absolutely environmentally safe and would be safe for lobsters to eat, as well as a durable product that would hold up a long time.
- Dane Somers, the Executive Director of the Maine Lobster Promotion Council, introduced himself to the Lobster Advisory Council. Dane said he has been in his new position for three months and is looking forward to continuing and expanding the MLPC's promotional activities. Dane stated that the MLPC is in the process of upgrading their dealer and buyer's list to optimize the communication between the two groups in the marketplace. Dane stated that he will be contacting all Lobster Zone Council Chairs in the next month to obtain their email and contact information. Dane encouraged the LAC to visit the MLPC's website to see the current outreach information being provided by the Maine Lobster Promotion Council at www.lobsterfrommaine.com.
- Commissioner George Lapointe announced that the 2007-2008 shrimp season has been set and will be 152 days long, which is a one-day increase from last year's season. The shrimp season will be open from December 1, 2007 thru April 30, 2008. Commissioner Lapointe said that the approved season was based on recommendations of the Northern Shrimp Technical Committee and Advisory Panel.
- Commissioner Lapointe reported that the 50,000 mt total allowable catch (TAC) on herring was caught by October. Next year the TAC will be reduced by 5,000 mt making the total allowable catch 45,000 mt.
- There was discussion regarding proposals to adjust the 2000-lb limit on seed lobsters. Dana Rice will be meeting with DMR staff to discuss any options and report any recommendations back to the LAC.
- Commissioner Lapointe reported that data gathered from the experimental low-profile rope will be drafted into a report and presented to the Take Reduction Team after the first of the year. If approved, the low-profile rope could be used in place of sink rope in specific areas. It will be discussed at the TRT's spring meeting, peer reviewed and submitted to NMFS for approval.

The next Lobster Advisory Council meeting has not been scheduled.

Federal General Category Scallop Fishery Update

The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) recently approved Amendment 11 in order to control the capacity of the general category scallop fishery. Amendment 11 will limit general category scallop permits to those that can document scallop permit history and landings between March 1, 2000 and November 1, 2004. Because the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) scallop resource has not been productive in recent years and many NGOM fishermen will not meet these requirements, the NEFMC established the NGOM Management Area (US waters north of 42° 20') to ensure that historic participants are allowed future access to the NGOM scallop resource. Additional measures of the NGOM Management Area include:

- The area will be open to vessels holding a general category permit on the November 1, 2004 control date.
- Vessels will be permitted to possess or land up to 200 lbs. per trip with a maximum of 10.5-foot dredge width with no vessel upgrade restrictions.
- The area would be under a hard TAC set by the scallop PDT based on the federal portion of scallop resource in the NGOM.
- All federal permit holder landings from the NGOM count toward NGOM TAC.
- If a vessel qualifies for a limited access general category permit under Amendment 11, any landings from the NGOM will count against their individual allocation as well as the NGOM TAC.
- Vessels must have VMS.
- Once the TAC is reached, there will be no fishing in the NGOM by any federal scallop vessels.

ATLANTIC HALIBUT REGULATION CHANGES & TAGGING INFORMATION

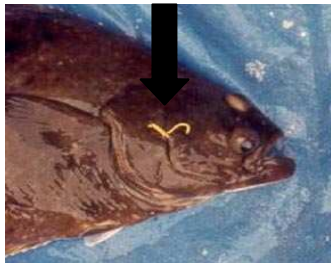
The Atlantic halibut regulations pertaining to the state waters fishery changed in late 2007. The changes related to the commercial fishery are summarized below:

- The minimum size is 38 inches, head-on or head-off (head-off measurement is from the pectoral fin to the tip of the tail)
- All legal sized fish intended to be retained must be immediately tagged with an approved landings tag*
- Hooks are limited to 14/0, 15/0 or 16/0 circle hooks only
- Buoys must be on both ends of a trawl and must be marked with the name and commercial license number of the fisherman
- The 4 fish/day limit was removed, but the 50 fish/season limit is still in effect

The complete regulations (Chapter 34) can be viewed at the DMR website (<http://www.maine.gov/dmr/regulations.htm>)

* - The Legislature is considering a bill to charge a nominal fee for the landings tags. If this bill is not passed, or not passed prior to the 2008 season, the tags will be made available, free of charge through DMR. Endorsement holders will receive more information on this regulation.

Research efforts expanded in 2007 to include a comprehensive survey of halibut distribution from the Canadian line to the NH border, out to 25 nautical miles. Tagging was a major component of this study. Three types of tags were deployed: conventional wire tags, data storage tags and satellite tags.



CONVENTIONAL WIRE TAG

DATA STORAGE TAG

SATELLITE TAG

PLEASE BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THESE TAGS! ALL TAG RETURNS RECEIVE A REWARD AND MANY TAGS ARE WORTH \$250 OR \$500.

IF YOU CATCH A TAGGED HALIBUT, RECORD THE DATE, LOCATION, LENGTH AND WEIGHT OF THE FISH. IF YOU KEEP IT, ALSO RECORD THE SEX AND COLLECT THE EAR BONES (OTOLITHS).

IF THE HALIBUT HAS A DATA STORAGE OR SATELLITE TAG – KEEP THE TAG EVEN IF YOU RELEASE THE FISH.

Thank you for your cooperation and for those who have been tagging, thank you for your continued participation. Please feel free to contact Kohl Kanwit for more information (207) 633-9535 or kohl.kanwit@maine.gov.

Also note there is a Canadian halibut tagging effort underway and any Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) tags can be returned directly (Shelly Armsworthy: ArmsworthyS@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) or to ME DMR.

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
MARINE RESOURCES
21 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

DMR - Hallowell
(207) 624-6550

This newsletter is available on the DMR Web Page at:
<http://www.maine.gov/dmr> Click on Lobster Information

Inside this Newsletter

◇ Fishermen's Forum.....1◇	Lobster Zone Council News13
◇ Harvester Reporting.....2-4◇	2008 New Zone Entrants.....13
◇ Federal Whale Rule Update.....4◇	Lobster Advisory Council Update.....14
◇ Maine's Low-Profile Groundline Proposal...4◇	Federal Scallop Fishery Update.....14
◇ Marine Patrol News.....5-6◇	Atlantic Halibut Tagging Information.....15
◇ Marine Patrol Violations Report..... 7-10 ◇	Contact Numbers.....16
◇ Lobster Science Program.....11-12	



Contact Numbers

- DMR (Hallowell)	624-6550	- Marine Patrol Div. I	633-9595
- DMR Lab (Boothbay)	633-9500	(NH border to St. Georges River)	
- DMR Lab (Lamoine)	667-5654	- Marine Patrol Div. II	667-3373
- Sarah Cotnoir	624-6596	(St. Georges River to Canadian border)	
- Donna Hall	624-6567		

